BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

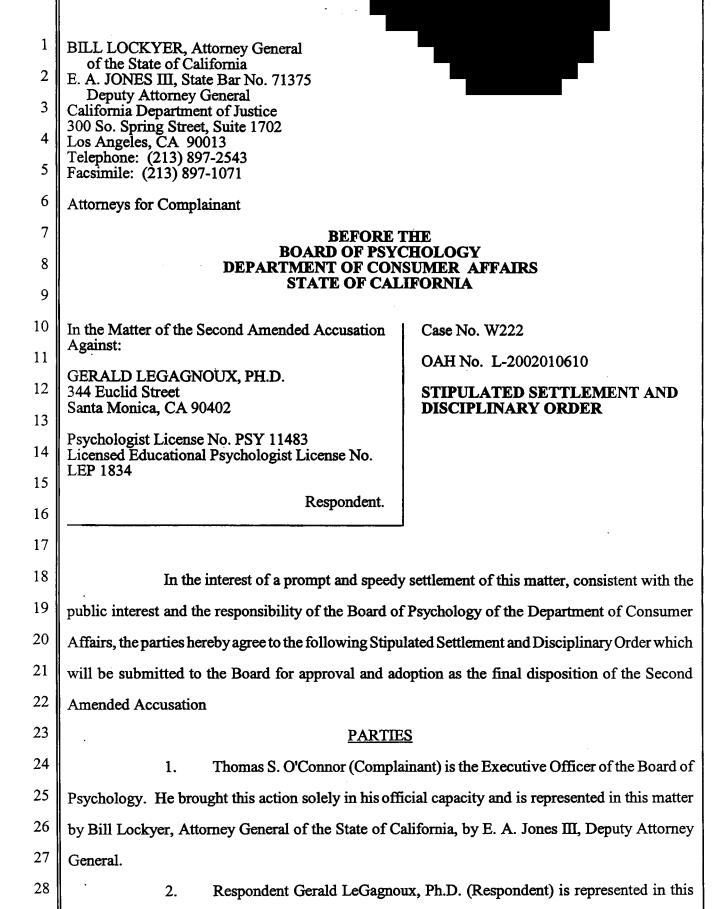
In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. W222	
GERALD LEGAGNOUX, PH.D. 344 Euclid Street Santa Monica, CA 90402	OAH No. L-2002010610	
Psychologist License No. PSY 11483 Licensed Educational Psychologist License No. LEP 1834		
Respondent.		
DECISION AND ORDER		
The attached Stipulated Settlement an	d Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by	
the Board of Psychology Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter		

This Decision shall become effective on February 12, 2004

FOR THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

WILLIAM LEW TAN, PRESIDENT

It is so ORDERED __January 13, 2004



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27 28 proceeding by attorney Daniel H. Willick, of the law firm of Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott. LLP, 445 S. Figueroa St., 31st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071-1602.

- 3. On or about March 1, 1990, the Board of Psychology issued Psychologist License Number PSY 11483 to respondent. The Psychologist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 3, 2005, unless renewed.
- 4. On or about May 12, 1989, the Board of Psychology issued Licensed Educational Psychologist License No. LEP 1834 to Respondent. The License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Second Amended Accusation No. W222 and will expire on June 30, 2004, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

5. Second Amended Accusation No. W222 was filed before the Board of Psychology (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on October 23, 2003. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Second Amended Accusation No. W222 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Second Amended Accusation No. W222. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Second Amended Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him: the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of

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no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

- 14. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Psychologist License No. PSY 11483 issued, and Licensed Educational Psychologist License No. LEP 1834 to Respondent Gerald LeGagnoux, Ph.D. are revoked. However, the revocations are stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for two (2) years on the following terms and conditions.

- 1. <u>NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYER</u> Respondent shall provide each of his or her employers, if any, during the period of probation, where respondent is providing psychological services, a copy of this Decision and the Accusation or Statement of Issues before commencing employment. Notification to the respondent's current employer, if any, shall occur no later than the effective date of the Decision. Respondent shall submit, upon request by the Board or its designee, satisfactory evidence of compliance with this term of probation.
- 2. <u>EDUCATIONAL REVIEW</u> Respondent shall submit to an educational review concerning the circumstances that resulted in this administrative action. The educational review shall be conducted by a board-appointed expert familiar with the case. Educational reviews are informational only and intended to benefit Respondent's practice by preventing future such complaints. Respondent shall pay all costs associated with this educational review.
- 3. <u>COURSEWORK</u> Respondent shall take and successfully complete coursework, in the area(s) of multiple role relationships, boundaries, and laws and ethics, of not less than twelve (12) hours total in each year of probation. Coursework must be pre-approved by the Board or its designee. All coursework shall be taken at the graduate level at an accredited

educational institution or by an approved continuing education provider. Classroom attendance is specifically required; correspondence or home study coursework shall not count toward meeting this requirement. The coursework must be in addition to any continuing education courses that may be required for license renewal.

Within 90 days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval a plan for meeting the educational requirements. All costs of the coursework shall be paid by the respondent.

- 4. ETHICS COURSE Within 90 days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval a course in laws and ethics as they relate to the practice of psychology. Said course must be successfully completed at the graduate level of an accredited educational institution or through a provider approved by the Board's accreditation agency for continuing education credit. Said course must be taken and completed within one year from the effective date of this Decision. The cost associated with the law and ethics course shall be paid by the respondent. Classroom attendance is specifically required; correspondence or home study coursework shall not count toward meeting this requirement. The coursework must be in addition to any continuing education courses that may be required for license renewal.
- 5. <u>INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY</u> Respondent shall pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$5000.00 within the first year of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Psychology and are to be paid regardless of whether the probation is tolled. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to repay investigation and enforcement costs.

6. <u>PROBATION COSTS</u> Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Psychology at the end of each fiscal year (June 30). Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to repay probation monitoring costs.

- 7. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state, and local laws and all regulations governing the practice of psychology in California including the ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by the respondent to the Board or its designee in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence.
- 8. QUARTERLY REPORTS Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board or its designee, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Quarterly reports attesting to non-practice status are to be submitted if probation is tolled.
- 9. PROBATION COMPLIANCE Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation program and shall, upon reasonable notice, report to the Board of Psychology probation monitor. Respondent shall contact the assigned probation monitor regarding any questions specific to the probation order. Respondent shall not have any unsolicited or unapproved contact with 1) complainants associated with the case; 2) Board members or members of its staff; or 3) persons serving the Board as expert evaluators.
- 10. <u>INTERVIEW WITH BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board or its designee upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.
- 11. <u>CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT</u> Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation monitor, of any and all changes of employment, location, and address within 30 days of such change.
- 12. TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE, RESIDENCE OR IN-STATE

 NON-PRACTICE In the event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside
 the State, or for any reason should respondent stop practicing psychology in California, respondent
 shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within ten days of the dates of departure and return
 or the dates of non-practice within California. Non-practice is defined as any period of time

exceeding thirty days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2902 and 2903 of the Business and Professions Code. During periods of non-practice, the probationary period is tolled and respondent's license or registration shall be placed on inactive status. The probationary period will not commence again until respondent activates his or her license and resumes practicing psychology in the state of California. However, the Board may require respondent to complete certain terms of probation that are not associated with active practice and respondent will be required to pay cost recovery and restitution as ordered.

- 13. <u>EMPLOYMENT AND SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES</u> If respondent is licensed as a psychologist, he/she shall not employ or supervise or apply to employ or supervise psychological assistants, interns or trainees during the course of this probation. Any such supervisorial relationship in existence on the effective date of this probation shall be terminated by respondent and/or the Board.
- as a psychological assistant or registered psychologist and subsequently obtains other psychological assistant or registered psychologist registrations or becomes licensed as a psychologist during the course of this probationary order, this Decision shall remain in full force and effect until the probationary period is successfully terminated. Future registrations or licensure shall not be approved, however, until respondent is currently in compliance with all of the terms and conditions of probation.
- 15. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board may, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation or Petition to Revoke Probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final. No Petition for Modification or Termination of Probation shall be considered while there is an Accusation or Petition to Revoke Probation pending against respondent.
- 16. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's license shall be fully restored.

ACCEPTANCE

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I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Daniel H. Willick. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Psychologist License, and Licensed Educational Psychologist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Psychology.

DATED: 10.2

GERALD LEGAGNOUX, PH.D.

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Gerald LeGagnoux, Ph.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form.

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NOSSAMAN, GUTHNER, KNOX & ELLIOTT, LLP

by DANIEL H. WILLICK
Anomeys for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Psychology of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 07803

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BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the Staff of California

E. A. JONES III
Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A Second Amended Accusation No. W222

1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California	
2	E. A. JONES, III, State Bar No. 71375 Deputy Attorney General	
3	California Department of Justice 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702	
4	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-2543	
5	Facsimile: (213) 897-1071	
6	Attorneys for Complainant	
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10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. W222	
12	GERALD LeGAGNOUX, Ph.D. SECOND AMENDED	
13	344 Euclid Street Santa Monica, CA 90402 ACCUSATION	
14	Psychologist License No. PSY 11483	
15	Respondent.	
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18	Complainant alleges:	
19	<u>PARTIES</u>	
20	1. Thomas S. O'Connor ("Complainant") brings this Second Amended	
21	Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology.	
22	2. On or about March 1, 1990, the Board of Psychology issued Psychologist	
23	License Number PSY 11483 to Gerald LeGagnoux, Ph.D. ("Respondent"). The Psychologist	
24	License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will	
25	expire on July 3, 2005, unless renewed.	
26	<u>JURISDICTION</u>	
	3. This Second Amended Accusation is brought before the Board of	
27	Psychology, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California ("Board"), under the authority	
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of the following sections of the Business and Professions Code ("Code").

4. Section 2960 of the Code states:

The board may refuse to issue any registration or license, or may issue a registration or license with terms and conditions, or may suspend or revoke the registration or license of any registrant or licensee if the applicant, registrant, or licensee has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a psychologist or psychological assistant.
- (b) Use of any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or dangerous drug, or any alcoholic beverage to an extent or in a manner dangerous to himself or herself, any other person, or the public, or to an extent that this use impairs his or her ability to perform the work of a psychologist with safety to the public.
- (c) Fraudulently or neglectfully misrepresenting the type or status of license or registration actually held.
- (d) Impersonating another person holding a psychology license or allowing another person to use his or her license or registration.
- (e) Using fraud or deception in applying for a license or registration or in passing the examination provided for in this chapter.
- (f) Paying, or offering to pay, accepting, or soliciting any consideration, compensation, or remuneration, whether monetary or otherwise, for the referral of clients.
 - (g) Violating Section 17500.
- (h) Willful, unauthorized communication of information received in professional confidence.
- (i) Violating any rule of professional conduct promulgated by the board and set forth in regulations duly adopted under this chapter.
 - (j) Being grossly negligent in the practice of his or her profession.

- (k) Violating any of the provisions of this chapter or regulations duly adopted thereunder.
- (l) The aiding or abetting of any person to engage in the unlawful practice of psychology.
- (m) The suspension, revocation or imposition of probationary conditions by another state or country of a license or certificate to practice psychology or as a psychological assistant issued by that state or country to a person also holding a license or registration issued under this chapter if the act for which the disciplinary action was taken constitutes a violation of this section.
 - (n) The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act.
- (o) Commencing January 1, 1999, until January 1, 2001, any act of sexual abuse, or sexual relations with a patient or former patient within two years following termination of therapy, or sexual misconduct that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a psychologist or psychological assistant or registered psychologist.

On and after January 1, 2001, any act of sexual abuse, or sexual relations with a patient, or sexual misconduct that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a psychologist, psychological assistant, or registered psychologist.

- (p) Functioning outside of his or her particular field or fields of competence as established by his or her education, training, and experience.
- (q) Willful failure to submit, on behalf of an applicant for licensure, verification of supervised experience to the board.
 - (r) Repeated acts of negligence.

The board shall study and report to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2000, concerning the efficacy of the prohibition contained in subdivision (o).

5. Section 2964.6 of the Code states:

An administrative disciplinary decision that imposes terms of probation may include, among other things, a requirement that the licensee who is being placed on probation pay the monetary costs associated with monitoring the probation.

6. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
- (b) In the case of a disciplined licentiate that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.
- (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.
- (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge where the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (e) Where an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licentiate to pay costs.
- (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
- (g)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licentiate who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this

section.

- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licentiate who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid costs.
- (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.
- (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.
- (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative disciplinary proceeding

CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

- 7. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2960 of the Code in that respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct in connection with the treatment of a client. The factual predicate is as follows:
 - A. On or about February 28, 1998, N.S., a three year old boy who was diagnosed with aphasia, attention deficit disorder and possible autism, presented to respondent for therapy pursuant to a referral. M.S., the father of N.S., indicated to respondent that he was concerned because his son was displaying signs of aggression and appeared to be frustrated with his inability to communicate. Respondent indicated he would treat N.S. and that the treatment would include a cognitive evaluation and observations of N.S. in his home and school environments.
 - B. Between on or about February 28, 1998, and June 2, 1999, respondent treated N.S. on many occasions. The treatments occurred at the family home and included many recommendations regarding diet and exercise.

- C. In or around June 1998, M.S. began discussing with respondent his (M.S.'s) business of media relations and respondent's difficulties with media. M.S. proposed to provide respondent with positive media exposure. Thereafter, M.S. provided respondent leads from magazines that needed psychological opinions. Thereafter, respondent was interviewed as an expert in various media. M.S. also created a spot on his web site (celebritydoctor.com) for respondent.
- D. In or around April 1999, M.S. sought respondent's agreement that M.S. would develop a web site for respondent addressing the bully syndrome in high schools.
- E. On or about May 10, 1999, M.S. sought respondent's agreement to pay for a videotaped interview conducted by M.S. Respondent agreed to pay \$2,000.00 for the videotaping costs and wrote a check for that amount to M.S.'s company.
- F. On or about June 23, 1998, respondent sent an e-mail to M.S. requesting the \$2,000.00 be refunded. Respondent indicated that he did not want to agree to share his non-practice income with M.S. and his partner for the next five years as part of a proposed web site project.
- G. In or a round the end of June 1999, M.S. terminated respondent's therapy with his son, N.S., because he felt a business relationship was interfering with his son's therapy
- H. On or about July 4, 1999, respondent sent M.S. an e-mail noting that M.S. had decided to take a break from respondent's services for N.S. and providing recommendations regarding further treatment for N.S.

Allegation of Unprofessional Conduct:

- 8. Between on or about June 1998 and June 1999, respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct when he engaged in the relationship with M.S., as set forth in paragraph 7.A. through 7.H. above, at the same time he was providing psychological treatment to N.S., the son of M.S.
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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Psychologist License Number PSY 11483, issued 1. to Gerald LeGagnoux, Ph.D.;
- 2. Ordering Gerald LeGagnoux, Ph.D. to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring;
 - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 3.

DATED: October 23, 2003

Executive Officer Board of Psychology State of California Complainant

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

In the Matter of the Accusation filed Against:

Gerald L. LeGagnoux, Ph.D.

No.: W222

I, the undersigned, declare that I am over 18 years of age and not a party to the within cause; my business address is 1422 Howe Avenue, Ste. 22 Sacramento, California 95825. I served a true copy of the attached:

DECISION AND ORDER

by mail on each of the following, by placing same in an envelope (or envelopes) addressed (respectively) as follows:

NAME AND ADDRESS

CERT NO.

Gerald L. Legagnoux, Ph.D. 344 Euclid Street Santa Monica, CA 90402 7002 0860 0004 1219 6491

Daniel H. Willick Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott, LLP 445 S. Figueroa St., 31st Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071-1602

E. A. Jones, III Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 300 S. Spring Street, Ste. 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013

Each said envelope was then on, <u>January 13, 2004</u>, sealed and deposited in the United States mail at Sacramento, California, the county in which I am employed, as certified mail, with the postage thereon fully prepaid, and return receipt requested.

Executed on, <u>January 13, 2004</u>, at Sacramento, California. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

DECLARANT Kathi Burns

Enforcement Coordinator